

# THE RICO BUGLE



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## Rico Planning Commission to Review Final Plat for Van Winkle Minor Subdivision on May 8th

After three hours of debate, the Rico Planning Commission approved the preliminary plat for the Van Winkle Minor Subdivision at the April 10th Planning Commission meeting.

Presented by Chuck Stilwell from Atlantic Richfield Corporation (ARCO), the proposed subdivision aims to address the problem of multiple ownership of properties containing the Van Winkle waste rock pile, where recent tests on soil samples show the presence of ore-grade lead levels. The subdivision would consolidate the ownership of the lead-contaminated tailings into one parcel, Van Winkle lot 2, which would then be conveyed to the North Rico Non-profit for maintenance in perpetuity.

The creation of the Van Winkle subdivision is the most complicated piece of the ARCO Voluntary Cleanup (VCUP) of lead contaminated soils in Rico, which was initiated in 2004 when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) threatened to take an enforcement action, giving the town three options: an ARCO cleanup at the direction of the

EPA, an EPA cleanup and most likely fines and/or environmental lawsuits, or a voluntary cleanup done by ARCO with final approval from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and the EPA. The town chose the latter option, avoiding costly additional studies and maintaining some local authority as to how the cleanup is undertaken.

Members of ARCO, the North Rico Non-profit and adjacent property owners worked together for several years to develop mutually beneficial land exchanges in which portions of private properties occupied by waste rock will be ceded into the Van Winkle lot 2.

The proposed lot 2 will be composed of the waste rock pile, the historic Van Winkle head frame, an improved access trail from Garfield Street east to the head frame area, a public open space/pocket park, a narrow road access from Mill Road, a snow plow turn-around, and a small parking area.

The proposed Van Winkle reclamation process

will include reshaping the waste rock pile to stabilize slopes; constructing retaining walls to stabilize slopes and prevent debris and water runoff onto neighboring properties; capping the contaminated areas with clean soils; revegetating the pocket park area and moderate slopes with native grasses; and, constructing water runoff channels to avoid seepage into and out of the waste rock.

After Mr. Stilwell's presentation, several letters were read from nearby landowners, Tracy Taylor and James Baron, opposing the subdivision proposal. Concerns raised and reiterated by Councilwoman, Patsy Engle were: public access; lack of town-wide benefit; channeling issues from potential water runoff; airborne particulates released during remediation work; increased noise and traffic in the area; desire to create an additional pedestrian trail from the pocket park, through private property, over steep terrain, to the mill road; substandard width of the proposed 15 ft access road; creation of a substandard residential lot size; and, the Land

*Van Winkle continued on page 10*

## A Celebration In Honor of All Mothers Roots In Rico Pampers Moms with a Bounty of Spring Flowers

Rico, CO—April, 2007 - Roots in Rico, a grass-roots organization is celebrating motherhood in a new way this year.

In conjunction with this time of commemoration and celebration for Mom, Roots in Rico will kick off its first-ever Spring bulb sale as one avenue to support the ongoing efforts in obtaining funding to build a year-round greenhouse along the river corridor of Rico.

Offering a diverse collection, these spring bulbs are planted in beautifully reused containers, all hand-picked from local thrift stores to provide a variety of shapes and sizes for moms to enjoy.

Huge, showy clusters of colorful early bloomers make these containers impossible to ignore. Glorious in themselves, they come at a time when the drabness of winter creates a craving for vivid colors.

Alive with the first signs of spring, these cheerful cultivars are prized for their sweet scent and can fill an entire room with their freshness, making them a dazzling Mother's Day gift.

Whether you prefer traditional terra cotta pot or ceramic with nicely detailed patterns, there are more than 60 planters to choose from that enhance the beauty of your flower bulbs without stealing the show.

Starting Monday, May 7th through Saturday, May 12th, there will be more than 60 planters bursting with flowers, all of various shapes and sizes. They will be on display and available for sale at Bluecorn Naturals located on Main Street in Rico. Special store hours for Roots in Rico's Bulb Sale will be 9 am-7 pm, Monday through Saturday.

Enjoy the luxury of a miniature garden in a deco-

rative recycled planter. These hardy bulbs bring a triumph of color to your tabletop - fragrant, fresh and continuously unfolding for weeks.

Mothers Day is celebrated to thank all beautiful moms for their immense love and affection. On this day, you can surprise her with a spring collection of flowers and support your local nonprofit.

Planted and grown with love, Roots in Rico invites you to visit Bluecorn Naturals starting May 7th and pick out your favorite container for that special mom in your life.

For more information, please contact M'Lissa Story, Director of Roots in Rico, 970-728-8701, or Bluecorn Naturals, 970-967-2306.

Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday May 13, 2007 (in the U.S.). In the UK Mothering Sunday is celebrated on the 18th of March, 2007.

## Take it to the Bank

by John Burgeson

"You can take it to the bank!" That's an old saying for declaring that something is certainly true.

There are things in our sometimes uncertain world that are (almost) certainly true. You can take them to the bank!

1. GRAVITY. Stand as long as you wish at the bottom of the ski slope. You are NOT going to suddenly "fall up." You can take that to the bank.

2. THE EARTH IS A SPHERE. Google searches show that the last of the "flat-earthers" seem to have passed into history. I miss them -- they were a comic relief. But they were wrong. You can take it to the bank.

3. THE UNIVERSE IS VERY VERY LARGE. Contrarians can be found on the internet. Sometimes their "science talk" sounds impressive. They are wrong. You can take it to the bank.

4. THE EARTH IS VERY OLD. It has been three to 5 billion years since it first formed. "Young earth" advocates are all over the internet. Some Christian groups, exhibiting more zeal than sense, have made the young earth part and parcel of their screwy theology. They are deluded. You can take it to the bank.

5. LIFE ON EARTH HAS EVOLVED. It has changed enormously in the past several billion years. Existing species have died away; new species have emerged. Yes, there are contrarians on evolution too, some of them with University Ph.Ds. Such persons represent far less than 1 percent of all practicing scientists. They are wrong, for they practice their science wrongly, ignoring evolution's evidences, constructing "ad hoc" explanations, quoting out of context, and so forth. You can take it to the bank.

6. GLOBAL WARMING IS A REAL PROBLEM. It is affecting, and will affect more, all of humanity. Ten years ago there was reason for skepticism about this. There is none anymore. You can take it to the bank.

7. HUMAN ACTIVITIES ARE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO GLOBAL WARMING. Perhaps five years ago this could be responsibly challenged. No more. You can take it to the bank.

8. THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE, BUSINESS AND OUR GOVERNMENTS CAN DO to soften the effects of Global Warming, most of which effects (see Al Gore's book reviewed last month) will be destructive to our civilization. Whether (or not) we will do these things, and how much any of them will help, is still debatable. But to do nothing suggests a very grim future. You can take it to the bank.

8. GOD EXISTS. There are certain scientists, otherwise well qualified in their fields of expertise, who argue otherwise. But their arguments are unsound. The "god" they rail against is a strawman. You can take it to the bank.

9. The God who most certainly exists is not a remote white-bearded comical character way beyond the stars. He is both real and personal. He loves you. You can take it to the bank. You should take it to the bank.

**RH THE Argentine Grille**  
at the Rico Hotel

Thanks for a great winter season!

The Argentine Grille will reopen  
May 25th

We're planning an exciting new menu  
for the Summer season.

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### Library cont. from pg 6

come in to see our poetry books which include our recent Poet Laureates, Billy Collins and Ted Kooser, and Pulitzer Prize winner, Paul Muldoon.

Celebrate National Library Week, April 15-21, by coming in to the Library and discussing your favorite book. Hope to see you at the Library soon.

Rico Library Hours: Saturday: 12-4 p.m.

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### Van Winkle continued from page 1

Use Code's 10% land dedication requirement.

Mr. Stilwell, Jen Stark, Town Attorney Susan Baker and Nicole Pieterse (representing a land owner involved in the land exchange that creates lot 2) addressed most of these concerns.

Creating culverts and drainage ditches will help reroute water away from the tailings pile and residences down hill, and therefor will improve the deainage situation that currently exists.

Town-wide benefit of the Van Winkle subdivision will result in the environmental remediation of one of the most lead-contaminated properties in town, and is part of the larger lead-soils VCUP which began in 2005. Failure to clean up Van Winkle could result in the failure of the EPA and CDPHE to accept the VCUP application.

Potential airborne particulates can be controlled with water and other methods, and would not form an ingestion risk.

A minor subdivision applicant is not required to donate 10% of the land to be subdivided if less than three new lots are being created, as is the case in the Van Winkle application.

The remaining issues of substandard road and lot size are being addressed through the variance application process.

The Planning Commission will be reviewing the final Van Winkle Minor Subdivision application on May 8th at 6:30, and then the application will go to the Town Board on May 16th at 7 pm for final approval. Both meetings will be held at the Rico Town Hall, 2 N. Commercial St, Rico, CO.

### Blotter continued from page 6

moved.

A lock was cut & a chain taken from a gate.

#### Week of March 26, 2007

Officer responded to a report of a domestic disturbance. Roy Ireton of Dove Creek was arrested on charges of 3rd Degree Assault & Domestic Violence & transported to jail.

A reported violation of a Restraining Order resulted in Marlin Dustin Daves of Dove Creek being arrested on charges of violation of a protection order. He was then transported to jail.

A reported domestic fight/disturbance was found to be juveniles playing and no problem at all on Pine Street.

Arrested Bryce Allen Young of Cahone on charges of DUI, DUI per se, careless driving and was transported to jail, after his vehicle rolled onto its top in a ditch on East Street. The Dove Creek Ambulance was dispatched, but no transport was made.

Officer assisted family at an unattended death.

A reckless truck driver was reported. Driver contacted and given warning.

A drunk pedestrian walking in traffic was reported. He was not found to be in the area.

#### Week of April 2, 2007

Loud music was reported on East Street. No loud music was located.

Possible spotlighting was reported & investigated.

An emu was reported roaming around. The owner was contacted to come get it.

A truck driver reported his vehicle was hit with eggs near the Car Wash in Dove Creek.

Possible tampering with property at a hay stack reported.

Officer investigated a reported problem over possible theft of electricity.

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